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REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 are pending. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and new claim 15 can be found at page 4, lines 27-34, of the specification.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1206976. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

According to present claim 1 a liquid substance B is applied to a rough surface in order to induce a repellent action against other liquids with which B is immiscible. The substance B itself is a liquid as the kinematic viscosity does not exceed 10000 mm<sup>2</sup>/sec. Substance B should not be mistaken for a liquid formulation of a substance B, e.g. a solution or dispersion as mentioned by the Examiner. Such a solution or dispersion by no means would be immiscible with a liquid A. Moreover, these solvents will evaporate after a short time. Therefore, it is important that the substance B itself is a liquid.

The Examiner also argues that the prior art suggests liquid silicone oils. However, the prior art does not suggest that these liquid silicone oils *per se* are useful to achieve repellency against liquids. In fact, EP 1206976 discloses conventional water-repellent surfaces for a new use, namely for transporting and storing aqueous dispersions. The invention taught by EP 1206976 is not related to the surface *per se*. Thus, EP 1206976 does not teach any new means for rendering a surface water-repellent apart from conventional ones. However, at the time the invention was made, only water-repellent surfaces were known wherein solid hydrophobizing agents were used to render the surface water-repellent. Thus, a skilled person would have expected that the liquid silicone oils mentioned by EP 1206976 must be cured in order to achieve the water-repellent action. In fact, the liquid hydrophobizing agents in EP 1206976 are cured after they have been applied to the surface, as can be seen from the working examples and

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likewise from paragraph 19, where it is stated that the surface is tempered after hydrophobizing. Since this reference relates only to conventional water-repellent surfaces, a skilled person would not have been motivated by this reference to modify the surfaces taught in this reference and even less to use a liquid agent having a specific kinematic viscosity.